



Our Gift to the Gulf: Transcript

- [Richard] Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to commence our opening of our forum with a Hineni and with a and followed by a and a And because many of you have been to probably quite a few last 20 years, you should know this Henani called, . So those of you who know it, kampa! Those of you who may just be learning it for the first time, that's just as good. So let us please stand and sing this...

- [Richard] My name is Richard kampa and I'm from the tribe of Nai Fatu but not only from Nai Fatu but also connected to various tribes in Hulu. It's an honour and a privilege to be able to come here today to extend a warm welcome to everybody and acknowledging all the wonderful organisers of this event who have put us all together. So it's an honour and a privilege to be able to come here to be asked to come here and open up this Hui and even more so to welcome not only all of you who are from here or from and from all over but also to the minister. So on behalf of us here we have gathered Ladies and gentlemen, there's a wonderful video that's about to be showing for the opening of this wonderful occasion so if I can now pass this time over to the technology of this video that's about to be showing.

- [Steve] What do you know about the ocean right on the doorstep of New Zealand's biggest city?

- [Riley] There's actually a huge marine park that goes far beyond what we can see with some spectacular creatures too.

- [Steve] We're taking you on an amazing adventure to my favourite place in the whole wide world; the incredible Hauraki Gulf Marine Park!

- [Riley] Come on, let's go! Not many people know where the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park or Tikapa Moana actually is. So we're going to fly all the way around it to show you just how massive it is and why we love it so much. From above the water and of course, from below. But before we head out too far, I've got to show you something amazing. Just out past the sky tower is Rangitoto, New Zealand's youngest island. About 650 years old. And right next door to it is Motutapu, one of New Zealand's oldest islands which is over 160 million years old. Wow! How cool is that? The water just out from Auckland is nearly always green. This is one reason why the inner gulf is so special. Some of that green colour is phytoplankton. Kind of like tiny, microscopic plants which are a massive food source for small animals, which can be eaten by some huge animals like Bryde's whales. Tikapa Moana is one of only a couple of places in the whole world that has a resident population of Bryde's whales. They love it so much that they can be found here all year round. We need to fly over Coromandel Peninsula to get all the way to the southern end of the marine park. Check out these islands! These are the Ottoman Islands. Wow! Check out that fur seal chasing the fish down below us! Look how manoeuvrable it is!

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- [Steve] Fur seals were almost hunted to extinction. And it was uncommon to see them, but now they're regular visitors in Tikapa Moana and their numbers are quickly coming back.

- [Riley] Coromandel Peninsula is also really popular with visitors and it's easy to see why, with beautiful beaches and harbours like this. Orca often visit here too as they hunt for their favourite delicacy; eagle rays and stingrays which they gently pick up to avoid the ray's dangerous stings.

- [Steve] Further off the coast in summer, schools of smaller fish arrive and with them, larger fish like marlin turn up for this annual feast followed by gannets that dive into the water like rockets to grab these tasty treats. Other animals arriving for this feast are false killer whales and bottlenose dolphins that are always found together. Tikapa Moana is like a whale highway and a quarter of all the dolphin species in the world have been found here. False killer whales are really messy eaters, and an animal that loves the scraps are black petrels which follow them around and pick up any pieces of fish left behind. There used to be millions of black petrels all around New Zealand, but now the only place they nest in the whole world is here, high in the mountains on Autea and Hauturu islands.

- [Riley] In the summer, just outside some of the harbours, large schools of bronze whaler sharks can sometimes be found right up in the shallows. Don't worry, it's safe to swim here! They're here 'cause they love eating fish. Bronze whalers are the most common large shark found around the coast too. And we love seeing them in the water. There's a huge school of trevally feeding right below us. Schools of feeding fish like this, are common to see on the surface around most of the outer islands of the gulf. The Mokohinau Islands are one of our favourite places to visit and I love feeding the friendly The island's around a deep water and you never know what you might see.

- [Steve] Tropical visitors like turtles and manta rays are often found here. They have travelled down here on an ocean current called the East Auckland Current. It passes right through the Hauraki Marine Park. Goat Island was the very first marine reserve in all of New Zealand and it's amazing! Marine reserves are kind of like wet libraries with lots more fish and life found inside than outside their boundaries. This is because everything is fully protected here. They give a tiny glimpse of what the gulf used to look like before people started fishing.

- [Riley] But there's a number of serious issues Tikapa Moana faces. We reckon that with your help, we can ensure it's even better in the future. We're stoked to show you why we love this place so much. Tikapa Moana is a stunning and unique part of New Zealand. How phenomenal is our backyard?

- [Clarke Gayford] I don't know how to follow on from this. We'll give it a go. Kia ora Steve and Riley, that was a stunning piece put together, absolutely beautiful. And kia ora Richard, too, for the Mehi, setting us up for what is ahead. Wow! Good evening everyone. If you followed that, you might be thinking, "Bro, you're a long way from Gisborne being up here." But Gisborne, Maori, where I grew up, was where I grew my love of the ocean, but it wasn't until I

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moved here to Auckland and sort of really understood the ecology of the ocean on our backdoor and what the Hauraki had to offer, that I really started to understand how everything fit into place and the patterns of flora and fauna that we saw in that video, they all start to work together and how things can be upset if they end up slightly out of balance. In fact, I have the gulf here to sort of, thank for my second coming. I had moved to Auckland for a bit of an urban adventure, if you will, and I had sort of inherited an old family boat that helped me reconnect with the ocean, where I discovered that being a working DJ, it was more fun to get up at five in the morning and go out on the water than it was to come home at five in the morning. And through that, I started making my background on TV and radio. I started making little clips of my experiences. I wanted to share some of that although, not quite to that quality. That was amazing with other people. And then a documentary filmmaker got in touch, who's a friend of mine and we started my current series "Fish of the Day" which now plays in over 80 countries around the world as a National Geographic title, and the very first episode we ever did was a story of kahawai here in the gulf. And so, I very much have the gulf to thank for providing me the platform and for being so accessible, and so here, and so absolutely worthwhile to look after. Now, I'm very conscious of the fact that we are incredibly lucky to have the gulf, and I've also skipped ahead and passed the housekeeping. Got a little bit excited and ahead of myself. So just to run through that, in the unlikely event of an emergency, there is an exit down the back, easy to locate from here. There are bathrooms located down through the corridor, in case you haven't found them, out to the side. And finally, mobile phones. We're not asking that you turn them off, just that you turn them to silent, because your mobile phones can help you participate in the Q and A that we have ahead. And we have a wonderful little platform called Slido, which I'll tell you how to operate. It is very easy so I'm told. I'd like to thank our Auckland partners, Southbase Construction, our design partner Resene, and all our programme supporters for the night ahead. If this is your first time at an Auckland Conversations, to the uninitiated, it is an opportunity to inspire and stimulate your thinking about the challenges facing Auckland. And what a perfect setting and a perfect timeframe to be having this discussion tonight given that it is the 20th year anniversary of the Hauraki Marine Parks. So thank you for joining us tonight, here in person and online where it is available and will be available into the future. Okay, so the order of events for tonight. The format, if you will we will shortly have an introduction of the 2020 State of our Gulf report by Hauraki Gulf forum member, Moana Tamaariki-Pohe. And then a keynote from the Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage, which I'm very much looking forward to as well. We will have a panel of experts and ocean-lovers that will be joining me up here onstage. We will be taking your questions. To engage in these questions, there's a couple of ways. If you're looking at home, or if you're on your phone, there is a simple website we'd encourage you to go to. It's [slido.com](https://www.slido.com). At [S-L-I-D-O.com](https://www.slido.com). There is a little event code, which is hashtag H-G-M-P. Hashtag H-G-M-P, and you can just type your question into there, and we will do our best to get through as many of those as possible. Alternatively, there is a non-digital, fancy-free way of engaging which is called raising your hand. There are a couple of microphones that will be racing around to try to get to you and we'll try and tackle some of those questions as well. As I said, it will be available online, and there will be transcripts and captions going up as well. Because we want as many people as possible to engage in this process. I have three quick acknowledgments before we kick off in earnest. One of them, and this is fantastic news, it started earlier this week. The launch of the Hauraki Gulf Regenerative Fund. This has been established by the Auckland Foundation.

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Now the fund is a way for the public to make donations to support and accelerate the regeneration of the Gulf, where you can give a little, or with a bit of luck, or if you've been lucky, to give a lot. The Auckland Foundation recognises the huge importance the Gulf holds for the communities that make up this wonderful city, and the importance of its regeneration for our children's grandchildren and beyond. This is long story arc stuff; into the future, they're talking 20 years plus. The goal is 10 million dollars over the next five years, and they have already identified areas of concern to start working on, including climate, adaptation, and community action in local areas, such as the restoration of places like Okahu Bay and Mahurangi, and they also want to look at island biodiversity programmes. So some incredible work that these guys are setting out to do, and it all kicks off this week and into the future. Second acknowledgement I'd like to give, and I understand that they're here tonight, Peter Burling and Blair Tuke. Of course, I saw them earlier. I'm just going to assume that they are still here. Of course, I have launched Live Ocean. It's their charity, it's up online. If you haven't been to their website and seen it already, where their mission to amplify and accelerate positive action for our ocean, already highlighting wonderful causes and concerns, including our antipodean albatross. It's kind of nice to know that they are sitting here in the room tonight and we have that up there, in all its caged glory. Because of course, come next March, it would be nice to keep that up there, given that the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron have built such a wonderful place for it. It would be a big empty hole should it not been there. And of course, the incredible technologically advanced mind-blowing vessels that are out on the water, doing amazing stuff. On to tonight's conversation, but before I do, that artwork that you see, and I'm very pleased and excited to be able to make this connection tonight, it's artwork that has... I know that it has a place in our home. I know that it has a place in classrooms everywhere. It comes out with the Herald and it is a wonderful resource. It gives me great pleasure to announce that we actually have the artist behind that artwork in the room tonight. I'm not sure if he wants to be embarrassed or not, but Dave Gunson, please raise your hand. It's wonderful! And you will have found on your seats the 2020 updated edition, celebrating 20 years of being a marine park. It's so great to have you here, Dave. I am not ashamed to admit that I have read and admired your posters over the years, and I have stolen information and passed it off as my own. It is a fantastic resource. Into tonight's conversation, "Our Gift to the Gulf:" Your part in "Protecting and improving the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park for future generations." The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, New Zealand's only marine park, turning 20. Here to provide the people of Tamaki Makaurau, New Zealand, and of course, international visitors that come here and enjoy it. As we've pointed out, home to 25 species of whale and dolphin. It is a global seabird hotspot. There are 26 species of seabird that rest and nest here. There are 5 species of seabird that only breed here. This is their only home. And we've ascertained over recent times, birds are... They're not dumb animals, they're smart animals. And there's a reason that they call this place home. It is their supermarket. It is their home away from home. They like to come here and rummage around at our shellfish beds and to steal shrimp, and bait fish to fatten up, to find a mate, we have visitors that cross continents just to park up here. This is almost their equivalent of a batch in Omaha. A place to just, sort of, chill out. And so it is upon us to make sure that we have that habitat for them here to enjoy, further and into the future. I mean, we have 20% of the world's entire seabird species that do visit and call by here. It's just a remarkable figure in itself, and something that is well worth protecting. And they can afford a little bit of protection in our predator-free gulf islands. Now, 45 of them, in the gulf that do

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provide sanctuary, not only for our visiting friends but for our native birds, as well. Kokako, kiwi... There's a Tuatera population on Houtarou or Toi, which I've been over and I've seen them rummaging around in the scrap heap of the ranger's hut. And it's just, when you get to go over there, and spend a little bit of time, it's almost an emotional experience, seeing New Zealand native bush the way it's intended to be and I feel very lucky to have been able to do that. However, and here's the kicker, as we commemorate the 20th anniversary, we must also reflect on the impact that we've had on our cherished marine park. The once mighty ecosystem is suffering. The decimation of shellfish beds. We've seen low fish stocks. There's a seabed, littered with plastic. There's areas that have been bought and drawled into a desert. We have sediment issues and have increased pressure from developments and tourism. The creep of shifting baselines is upon us, where what we might think of as a good day out, seeing wildlife, or catching fish, is nothing on what it used to be. And look, I'm a firm believer in what I do, and sharing positive ocean stories, because you need to give people a little bit of hope to go forward with. So that doesn't all become doom and gloom, but we are amongst family, and every now and then, it is good to have a bit of inward reflection and look and ask ourselves some hard questions about things that aren't going well, and things that we could be doing better. I love learning about the biomass of the Gulf and what it was like, looking back through old catch, history records, talking to old commercial fishermen about how good it was, and trying to lay that out for people so that they can get a feeling for the fact that they used to catch bass off Tiritiri Matangi. That they once caught a tiger shark off Takapuna Beach. That we used to have old Bill Hohepa used to catch Hapuku off Anchorite Rock. In fact they would've been a large part of the ocean, and sure ecology playing a role here, and they're all fished out to much deeper water. The fact that Meola Reef used to be covered in crayfish, now we just think of it as an area where we go on, walk our dogs and pick up after them. In fact, crayfish were so prevalent, I read this wonderful story of early settlers' children used to fish them out of the rock pools with pitchforks at low tide. Crayfish are designed to survive a whole tide change out of water. We had so many of them here, that they didn't all fit! And some of them would get pushed out at low tide. And we talk about New Zealand being the land of the long white cloud, or land of seabirds. It was actually once upon a time, the land of oysters, as well, in fact, the first ever fisheries legislation that came in in this country was in 1866, and it was right here in Auckland because we had the most magnificent oyster beds, all here, in the harbour. This might sound crazy, but we used to harvest the oysters from here, and they would be sent down into the deep south. They were considered a much finer flavour than the oysters they would find at, down in Bluff. Which is just as remarkable when you think back to what it must have been like, where before those changes came through. And so when you start piecing these stories together, you start to think what was it like? What was it like when we had mussel beds as far as the eye could see, that used to turn over the water so regularly, that it used to run clear. What was it like before the petrel has nearly wiped the snapper out in the 1970s? Or the incredible deep water corals that reportedly existed through that Colville Channel that used to foul trawler's nets. What must have it been like when we used to have great boil-ups of pilchards that were here in the Gulf, before they all caught herpes in the 1990's from Australia, which is a true story! And what must have it been like when great flocks of seabirds used to transfer the protein from the sea, up back into the hills, which allowed rare grasses and flaxes and other things to flourish, that required the bird droppings to create the perfect conditions for them to thrive? And if I can just finish and get cracking into this by putting a positive spin on it. What

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we have here in New Zealand is incredible. We are in the Goldilocks-zone of the ocean. The beautiful temperate waters that we have, I liken to a floating agar jelly dish, where if we can find ways to relax and look after things bounce back very very quickly. We are just this wonderful, sort of bumbling existence of life, and right in the centre of it, the lynchpin that marks it all with a rich waters from the harbour flow out and they meet, as Steve talked about in the video, that eastern current line that comes down is just the crux, the jewel, if you'd like, of where all life; marine life and New Zealand, really concentrates. It's a fantastic place and it is right here on our doorstep, and we owe it to ourselves and to our kids and to the future to look after it. So here, to report on the state of our gulf in 2020, I'd like to welcome to the stage, first speaker, and she will be a panellist later on this evening, Moana Tamaariki-Pohe. ...and this is my dream. Kia ora and thank you for being here tonight. It's really lovely to be here with you all. My name is Moana Tamaariki-Pohe. I'm from Orakei and I'm from Mangere, and I often say that I have one foot in the Waitamata, and one in the Manukau, and I'm from everywhere in between. I'm currently a member of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, and I get this honour tonight to speak to you because I was the deputy chair at the time that this report was produced. I want to say a big thank you to the Wonder Team, Shane Kelly, Rauru Kirikiri, Carina Sim-Smith, and Shaun Lee, for producing such a great report. For beautifully weaving and science for capturing the efforts of so many again, thank you. It's my absolute pleasure to launch the State of our Gulf 2020 Hauraki Gulf, Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui-a-toi State of the Environment report. Bit of a mouthful. This is the sixth such report in the 20 year history of the Hauraki Gulf Forum. Each previous report looked at the environmental changes over a three year period. This report is the first to take a longer, 20 year snapshot. Sandra Goudie would much prefer us to shorten it again, but this is as short as we got it. And as the report with you tonight shows, a lot's happened in 20 years. The first good news, and you'll like this, Richelle, The first good news, and you'll like this, Rochelle, of the Bryde's whales. Pest eradication on the Motu, and native regeneration efforts have been spectacularly successful, allowing the return of species like wetapunga, tuatara, many endangered birds like the kokako, takahe, and kiwi. Many people from all walks of life are now playing an active role in restoring and protecting the gulf. Taking important steps like riparian planting, eliminating plastic, and the beach clean ups. And much more is now known about our unique environment, of the Hauraki Marine Park. Thanks in part to these reports. However, as you know, it's not all good news. Environmental degradation continues on a daily basis, and Clarke pointed out some of these. Crayfish are now hard to find in heavily fished areas of the gulf. Sediment, nutrients, chemicals, and plastic continue to wash into our water. Though efforts to improve the water quality are gathering pace. Both seabirds and and shorebirds have seen sharp rises in the number of species classified as threatened. Cockle numbers have declined in every area where gathering is allowed all year round. The number of marine pests have more than doubled, with the arrival of invasive species like the Mediterranean fanworm. Kina barrens are replacing once lush kelp forests. And urban and coastal sprawl has expanded, driven by higher than expected population growth, meaning wild places are harder to find. The report also highlights some mixed news on the fishing front. No surprises there. Total commercial fishing catch in the gulf has increased, compared with 20 years ago, while total recreational catch has fallen. Fish stocks, over all, remain low, though some are now rebuilding, such as tamure, snapper, and tarakihi. After six such reports, there can no longer be any debate about the impact on our big, or should I say, our green backyard. The only question now is, what will we do about it? Which brings me to the forum and you. I'd like

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to take this opportunity to acknowledge the present members. Co-chair, Councillor Pippa Coom, local board members, Cath Handley, Valmaine Toki, and Scott Milne, Mayor Sandra Goudie, Councillors Wayne Walker, John Watson, Christine Fletcher, Denis Tegg, Donna Arnold, Anne Marie Spicer, and Rob McGuire, and minister's representatives Andrew Baucke, Martin Mariassouce, Andrew Bell, and Tangata Whenua members Paul Majurey, Nicola MacDonald, Mook Hohneck, and Dean Ogilvie. I'd like to acknowledge recently retired members, Liane Ngamane, John Tregidga, and Mike Lee, for their long and dedicated service to the kaupapa. And to also acknowledge John Meeuwsen, Dal Minogue and Richard Hills, who recently retired from the forum. There have been many past Hauraki Gulf Forum members, all who contributed enormously. Also, I thank past executive officers, Tim Higham and Katina Conomos, for an amazing job, and a special thanks to the current executive officer extraordinaire, Alex Rogers. Thank you all. The Hauraki Gulf Forum is made up of 21 members, 12 members from six councils, three representatives of the ministers, Conservation, Fisheries and Maori Development, and six Tangata Whenua representatives. All members are in positions of influence, each and every one of them. So I choose to relate to this group of people as movers and shakers, people that will push the boundaries, advocates for change, and the ultimate champions for the Hauraki Gulf, Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui-a-toi. In my 10 years of involvement with the Hauraki Gulf Forum, I've heard on numerous occasions that the Hauraki Gulf Forum is toothless and has no legislative powers. To that I say, rubbish. I like to think of the forum along with you all, as a shark with a mouthful of razor sharp teeth and a big bite. And when one tooth is lost, another effective tough tooth replaces it. There are more people who do not have legislative powers, that are toothless, in this room tonight than those that do. And yet you have made, and continue to make, an incredible contribution to revitalising our taonga. We don't need an act. We need to act. We need to be willing to get our butts wet. To get out of the spectator seats and paddle our waka to take action. There are so many people doing so many great things in this place that we love, because they can and because they care. There are so many champions already, and a few of my favourite collaborative projects include, volunteer speed reduction, to reduce Bryde's whale strikes, Ports of Auckland, Auckland Uni, and Richelle. The Neureuter Whanau and the Noises, I think visitors to these majestic islands rival the number of visitors to Waiheke, there are so many supporters that visit those islands. And of course, close to my heart, Okahu Bay Restoration Project. Ngati Whatua Orakei, Auckland Uni, Auckland Council Healthy Waters, Orakei Water Sports, Hauraki Sports, Auckland Canoe Club, Auckland Haul Out, Orakei Marina, Mussel Farmer Jake Bartram, Ngati Paoa kaumatua and Whanau, and last but not least, Mrs. Mussels herself, Richelle Kahui-McConnell. Collaborative projects have often been made possible by the generosity of community volunteers, I don't think we can thank them enough. And organisations like Tindall Foundation and Foundation North Fund. It is important to acknowledge the dedication and efforts of Mean Whenua, government agencies, local government, philanthropic organisations, learning institutes, local businesses, community groups, and individuals, collectively committed to making a difference. And I'd like to make a special mention to the technical officers, that we receive from the technical officers they're amazing and extraordinary backbones for all the work that we do from council and from the ministry staff. Whether you are in the foreground or in the background, every effort counts. Collaboration is key, working together for the greater good. At the Hauraki Gulf Forum 2019 Making Waves Conference, Nick Sampson from Strategy and Principal Brand Agency, fantastically facilitated an exercise of all the attendees, and they

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were asked what they would say if they were Moana of the Hauraki Gulf, Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui-a-toi. I'll read for you their beautiful collective story, Healing the Hauraki Gulf Together, let us be the voice for the voiceless. "I am a living, breathing embodiment of mauri, the life-force that connects us all." . "From the mountains to the sea, look at me on a good day, and all seems well but the truth is, I've been hurting. shellfish beds decimated, fish stocks low, my seabeds suffocated with plastic and sediment, a mighty ecosystem brought to its knees." "The healing process will take time, Hard Mahi and Cooperation, and it will also take more than just aroha." "I need true, unrelenting partnership, one of the protections and active restoration." Everyone of us have a role to play in this, but we'll also need workers to work as one. "Only when my mauri is fully restored will this journey end back to where it began, a healthy, teeming, abundant taonga, with kaiMoana and opportunity for all, we'll have mauri ora." "I can be healed, I need you all by my side, working together, our future looks bright." Let's be the voice of the voiceless. Our inherited treasure, Tikapa Moana, Te Moananui-a-toi, Hauraki Gulf, needs us to stand up, speak up and take action. To channel our energy, so the mauri, the life force of the Moana, is healthy and vibrant. After 20 years of the Hauraki Gulf Marine park, it does feel like the tides are starting to turn for the better. Together we will achieve great results. We must think and act with our heads, our hearts and our hands. Someone that has been amazingly supportive of the forum, and demonstrates a willingness to think and act with her head, heart, and hands, is our next speaker. It is now my honour to welcome to the state, to speak on behalf of the central government, our Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Eugenie Sage. Can I acknowledge you, Richard and Ngati Whatua, for your welcome, thank you. Can I acknowledge members for the Hauraki Gulf Forum, especially the deputy chair, Moana. Counsellor Pipa Coom, councils and staff from Auckland council and thank you for organising and hosting this function tonight. Parliamentary colleagues, Marja Lubeck and Erica Stanford. Members of the Waikato and Auckland conservation boards, Mayor Goudie from Thames-Coromandel Council and other councillors. But can I acknowledge everyone who celebrates and cares for our Tikapa Moana Te Moananui a Toi. And can I, like Clarke, acknowledge the magnificent people who share in an inspirational way, the beauty of what lies under the waves. Dave Gunson with his 21 posters, Riley and Steve Hathaway and other videographers, for bringing our marine space alive to those who don't dive. It inspires aloha, it inspires respect, it inspires care. Today, as others have said, we're here to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. It is our only marine park in Aotearoa, New Zealand. It is the only area which is recognised as being nationally significant and it was a law that was passed in 2000 which was really innovative because it recognised Te Tiriti, it recognised the interests of tangata whenua and it sought to overcome the legal and administrative boundaries that we impose by law, through council boundaries, on the sea space. It sought to integrate the management of the natural historic and physical resources of Tikapa Moana, its islands and its catchments. It sought to establish objectives for management and I think what Moana has talked about and the fact that the act provides for the sixth State of the Environment reports by establishing objectives and then measuring whether they are being achieved, we are actually in a much better position than if we hadn't had that legislation. The act also recognises the historic, the traditional, the cultural, and the spiritual relationship of Tangata Whenua, with the Hauraki Gulf, Tikapa Moana and its islands. And most importantly, the legislation seeks to protect and enhance the life supporting capacity and the natural resources of Tikapa Moana. So it's been 20 years since the marine park was established.

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Our 20 years since the forum was established and the critical role that Moana talked about of the forum and being a vehicle for implementing these purposes in the law and these objectives across these boundaries. So this kaupapa of protecting and enhancing the ability of our seas and the gulf to support life, is really what is the focus of the State of the Environment report and it is charting where we've come from and where we have to go. We, as others have noted and Clarke in particular, it is an opportunity to celebrate some of the successes over the last 20 years, but to reflect on how much more we need to do and the urgency of this work. And like Moana, I acknowledge Dr. Shane Kelly, Rauru Kirikiri, and the team that have put this sixth State of the Environment report together. Particularly the honesty, the frankness of the conclusions and the accessibility of the report with its many graphics and panel boxes, it's very easy to read and would encourage you to do so. As others have noted, one of the successes is with Bryde's whale and the fact that we have significantly reduced the collisions because of that voluntary initiative by the shipping industry to reduce their speed. And another major success is the sustained work that has been done to free the islands of Tikapa Moana Te Moananui a Toi from rats, stoats, possums and those other mammalian killing machines. We through collaborative efforts of Te Papa Atawhai, conservation groups, iwi, and philanthropic support, may have meant that there are now 15 more islands than there were in 2000, which are free of introduced predators and are safe spaces for birds, for plants, and spaces where species like tieke have been reintroduced, spaces now, that we have 45 of these islands, depending on whether you count some of the rock stacks, which can provide stepping stones for our birds to move across the gulf and to move to the mainland. 30 years ago, Rangitoto's pohutukawa forests were on their way to recovery after possums had been eliminated. But rats eat an enormous number of seeds. So the recent elimination of rats means that these forests are now really recovering and birds are coming back of their own accord. And then you've got that re-vegetation that's occurring on Mototapu, Motuiha and Motuora. So this is just a magnificent effort above the water. And that has only been possible because of collaboration. Those efforts inspire me. But as Moana, as Clarke, and the video have pointed out, in the marine space, the State of the Environment report tells quite a different story. The continuing loss of species, habitat being overwhelmed by the impacts of our activities on land, whether it's the nutrients that are coming in from farming, the sediments as land developers seek to create our flat building platforms, the overfishing, the report tells of the gaps in information. What is the state of the scallop beds in the gulf? We have anecdotal information but we don't have the science. We've got koura, crayfish, becoming functionally extinct outside of marine reserves, the kelp forests replaced by kina barrens because there aren't enough snapper there to remove and eat the kina. And despite the best efforts of fishers, species like the taiko, the black petrel, are still being caught in recreational and commercial fisheries in such numbers that they're just likely to lead the population to continue to decline. We've had 10 mass mortalities of fish and shellfish over the last 10 years. A changing climate, rising sea temperatures, is going to mean that is more likely to happen more frequently. Toxic algal bloom's becoming more common. So what does it take to turn this around? Collaboration, I think is something we can all celebrate and encourage more of, as Moana did. So we saw in 2013, the sea changed. Tai Timu Ta Pari, a collaborative process, established by the former government. That led to the drafting of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan in 2017 and I acknowledge those of you in the room who have contributed a lot of mahi to that plan and that process. So that plan sets out to secure a

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productive and a sustainable future for Tikapa Moana Te Moananui a Toi by taking a fresh look at its management and developing a roadmap for the future. And as Moana mentioned, the plan was in response to those human pressures. So what government has done is established a Ministerial Advisory Committee last year, co-chaired by Paul Majurey and Catherine Harland, with a number of representatives both the iwi and stakeholders with support from Te Papa Atawhai, the Department of Conservation and Fisheries New Zealand, to develop recommendations for ministers, myself and Minister Nash as Minister of Fisheries about how we best respond to the Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan and to prioritise some of the actions. So I'm really looking forward to the Ministerial Advisory Committee's recommendations later this year. Those recommendations on their own won't be enough. Government working with local government needs to have an ongoing programme of work around fisheries management, habitat restoration, aquaculture, marine protection, protected species, Aha Moana, marine biosecurity and governance. And the strategy covers all of those issues. It's things like support for mana whenua and local communities to manage their, co-manage their coastal areas, to enable mana whenua to fulfil their ancestral obligations and to restore that really significant cultural, spiritual relationship that Tangata Whenua have with the gulf and its islands. One of the things that's inspired me is the Tamata. Ragui Mataitai, which was just a local community effort north of Thames in the Firth of Thames, where the community said to Minister Nash, we need a rahui on the take of mussels, cockles, pip, the recuse over the summer with the influx of visitors to the Coromandel. That was established very quickly, so bureaucracies can move fast, and it is a temporary rahui from January through to July. The local community has ensured that the rahui has been implemented and they have enforced it and they met with them earlier this week and with iwi. It's been a really successful initiative and I think it shows that sometimes, if we do things quickly and if we experiment, we can achieve change on a smaller scale and that can encourage change elsewhere. But, why is it in marine space that we have less than 1/2 a percent of our marine area protected in marine reserves? Why is it that in the marine space, there is so much argument about people's interests and rights and less about responsibilities? There is so much conflict here. We have got to get beyond asserting our rights and to think about our responsibilities to the domain of Tangaroa and endorse them. Because we all share their interest in a healthy gulf with abundant fisheries and marine life. Those eloquent descriptions that Clarke gave, of what the Gulf was once like, we can get there again but it means sharing, putting aside our assertion of rights. I would really like to see some ambitious vision, things like the fishing industry, offering to stop bottom trawling and other bottom-damaging methods like Danish seining, to take that step that will inspire other action and how wonderful would that be? It's land developers, recognising that yes, there are rules in the Auckland Unitary Plan, but they have a responsibility to really stop any sediment getting off the land. So the State of the Gulf report sets out the challenge. We need to respond to that challenge to put the interest of Tikapa Moana Te Moananui a Toi at the heart of all of our actions so that the Gulf thrives for its own sake and for our sake in the present and in the future.

- [Clarke] Thank you so much Ms. Sage for those words and Moana as well for laying that benchmark with the sixth Report creating, as you pointed out, just an incredible baseline which we can look back on to go forward with and bringing us up to speed with where things are at. Now I'm conscious of time and I'm conscious that we have a fantastic line up of panel

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experts and ocean lovers, so I'll quickly bring them up to the stage and we will roll through to the next part of the evening. The first panellist is known to us because she got to get up here and deliver the State of the Gulf report. Moana, I'd like to invite you back to the stage please. Involved with the Hauraki Gulf forum since 2010, our second panellist here who was probably the most excited around the news that the shipping was being slowed down for the Bryde's whales, because she is a Cetacean Expert, Associate Professor from the School of Biological Sciences in Institute of Marine Science, please welcome Rochelle Constantine to the stage. And you'll already be familiar with our next panellist because she was one half of that incredible video that we watched at the start and her proud dad, Steve, is somewhere in the audience and Riley, if you haven't seen what she's done with the young ocean explorers, she's fantastic. She's pretty much written off our generation and she's going into schools and just starting with the next generation and getting their heads around what we need to be doing to looking after this place. I can't believe that you're 19 now, Riley. You're growing up so fast. Please welcome to the stage, Riley Hathaway. I spoke of mussels before and I did so with a little bit of nervous trepidation because there was an actual mussel expert here in the room as well. A Professor of Marine Science from the University of Auckland, Andrew Jeffs. And she was so eager to be involved that she turned up early, left her shoes here, left and then came back again. I'm not quite sure what that's about, but I know that she's very enthusiastic about being here. Representing our Auckland Council, Pippa Coom, who is the Deputy Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee. She's a member of the local governments, New Zealand's National Council, and is the new co-chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, Pippa Coom. Welcome. We'll warm the panellists up with a generic question that they can all take a turn answering. I'll throw two questions into the same part and can go down there and get a little... To get to know you a little better. So panellist, I'm going to ask each of you: What is the one thing that you love most about the Hauraki Gulf? What is the one thing that we can all do to help restore the health of the gulf for future generations? What do you love most about the gulf? What's the one thing that we can do to help? I mean, someone can volunteer to go first, I know that none of you are short of words. Let's start with Pippi, can you kick things off?

- [Andrew] I'm happy to start.

- [Clarke] Thank you, Andrew, thank you.

- [Andrew] The thing I like most is the smell. Just that smell when you're on the coast and you smell that sort of healthy, salty smell. It just gets to me. I don't know what it is but it smells great. So that's what I like. What could we do to help the gulf? Well, I think that's a really important question. I think everyone in this room can do something to help the gulf, whether it's writing to the Minister and ask him to do more. Or just when you go outside, picking up a piece of plastic wrapper that could wash into the sea and become something that the fish eats. Or if you're a builder, just making sure when you break the ground, that you prepare the ground properly so that you are not getting dirt washed out into the gulf. So everyone can do something and I think we've got to recognise that and know that as much as we can.

- [Clarke] Fantastic, what a wonderful start, Andrew. Riley, would you like to go next?

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- [Riley] Yes. What do I love most about the gulf? That is a very tricky question. I just love that every time I'm out in the water, there's something different to see, and it's always a different experience. And it's pretty cool just to be able to say that I grew up going out there my whole life and the amount of stories. Yeah, I love the gulf. Anyway, what can we all do? I was going to say the same thing. I think every single person can do their little bit and I love talking to kids about that, that no matter what it is that you can do, that is enough. And if we all do our little bit, then a lot can change so in terms of making a difference, just taking out the rubbish or making sure that there's no rubbish on your streets so that you know that there's no rubbish from your area going into the water in your area.

- [Clarke] Lovely, perfect. Rochelle.

- [Rochelle] The thing I love about the gulf is how much life comes back here no matter what we throw at it. So many animals come here and then leave here and come back here, year after year. And they teach their offspring how to do it, either deliberately, with the case of Cetaceans, or just through their genes. They return home. This is their home, no matter how badly humans treat it and that's something very powerful for me because I study big things so you know whenever I go out there, I'm like, "You're back, wow!" I love that. And what can we all do? I think we need to get better at having courageous conversations. I think we need to stop standing in the corners and yelling at each other. And I think we need to come to the middle, and we all need to compromise. We've heard about the Bryde's whales and ship strike, that's exactly what we did. The purpose of that when we brought that group together was, "What is our purpose?" "No one wants dead whales." That was it. It was no longer about any of us, or who we stood for or our company or money or anything. And the core purpose was, we had to be courageous and comfortable with disagreement and only because of that in two and a half years, we got a solution to what was one of New Zealand's largest conservation challenges. And for me, that's what we need to do now for the gulf, not in a month or a year or the next report. I'm sick of reading these reports that just go down. The only fully good piece of news was the Bryde's whales are no longer dying. So, courageous conversations, it's time to do that. Shake it off, stay away from the corners, come into the middle, be brave.

- [Clark] Moana.

- [Moana] Kia ora, what I love about the Hauraki Gulf Tikapa Moana Te Monananui a Toi, is that I put my faith in the water that my father did, and his father did, and his father and so on back. So many generations that I feel that I'm a part of it, that's in my heart, it's in my veins. And what we can do more is very much what Rochelle says. Work together and be the voice of the Moana, because together we can make a difference.

- [Clarke] Nice.

- [Pippa] Kia ora tatou. What I love about the gulf is that we are all so connected to it and it's so accessible from so many points and vantage points all around the gulf. And in terms of what we can do for the Hauraki Gulf, I have to say this as Deputy Chair of the Environment

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and Climate Change Committee, that if we acted as if there is a climate emergency, every action that we will take, would benefit the Hauraki Gulf. So that's what I'd like to see us all taking action with urgency.

- [Clarke] So I should probably... I think we'll stay with you and it brings up a point. What if we asked you to speak on behalf of Auckland council, what are they doing for the gulf?

- [Pippa] Thank you for that . There are so many people here from Auckland Council and I do want to acknowledge my colleagues, the elected representatives and all the people on Auckland Council who are working hard for the Hauraki Gulf. There's a huge amount going on, especially around monitoring, around restoration, pest control, and being part of, and contributing to the forum and providing a lot of resources for the forum. I know there's a lot of people on the Council who really want to do a lot more as well. And I heard one of my colleagues sitting behind me saying, "Hear, hear!" to everything that the minister was saying. So just things like development, planning, getting it right so that we don't have all this contamination going to the Hauraki Gulf, is a huge role for council and there's a big commitment, but a recognition there's a huge amount more that we need to do.

- [Clarke] Excellent. I'll keep going down the line. Andrew, there's a lot of talk about what we can do in the science field to help the gulf but there's some really basic stuff where we can let some of the animals help the Gulf, in particular what we could allow for the mussels to do, if we could get them to replenish.

- [Andrew] The mussels are a really interesting one. For those of you who don't know, the Hauraki Gulf used to have a massive mussel bed, nearly 1000 square kilometres, which is nearly the size of metropolitan Auckland. It was carpeting the Hauraki Gulf. And they are really important in terms of ecological processes, particularly for providing nursery areas for juvenile fishes. So a mussel bed typically has 10 times more juvenile fishes than areas without mussel beds. So, getting those... Those mussel beds were fished out last century, and they haven't returned. So you know a major challenge and one of the forum has adopted is trying to put those beds back, so that we can get all those ecological benefits and restore those fisheries benefits that mussel beds provide for us.

- [Clarke] Yeah, and just to speak to, I guess, to a positive story. The Revive Our Gulf campaign, which are actually out there doing it and they're working in with commercial interests to take some of the Greenland mussels that are unused and reseeded them into new beds.

- [Andrew] Yeah, absolutely. The agriculture industry has been really supportive. Philanthropists have been really supportive, in terms of taking mussels from mussel farms and working with scientists to figure out how we can put those mussel beds back and recreate some of those huge ecological benefits that they provide for the Hauraki Gulf. And I'm really optimistic that we're going to figure out how to make it happen on that kind of scale. That's the big challenge is getting it up to a 1000 way up.

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- [Clarke] Yeah, that would be magnificent. Excellent. Rochelle, let's speak to the science of things now. I mean, are we ready for events like climate change? We had parts of the west coast of the South Island last year that was 6.4 degrees Celsius above average. And that's, I mean, any temperature shift like that in the ocean is massive to the life that's underneath that. Are we ready for the climate change happening out here in the Gulf?

- [Rochelle] No. I think we're in quite a lot of denial about climate change, when you talk to people about, "Oh, what an amazing summer!" "It was so warm and we swam and swam." And it was an amazing summer and we did swim and swim, and you know, the past two summers where we've had the warm blob, that's the technical term for it, and the El Nino, which you know, the big El Nino was in 2015, 2016. So what that means is it got too warm for a lot of our plankton. We did a study, the Plankton to Poop Project. I wanted to know what Bryde's whales were eating and so we collected their poop, but actually it was really a plankton study. We found using high throughput gene sequencing technologies, these new fancy ticks, that we have over 2000 different types of zooplankton in the Gulf. There's more than that, but we identified over 2000, almost all of them have no name, we don't know what they are. Whether we know that they're roughly a wormy thing, or a crunchy thing or slimy thing.

- [Clarke] Yeah, scientific terms.

- [Rochelle] Yeah, scientific terms.

- [Clarke] Good.

- [Rochelle] But really, I mean, even in science terms, we have no idea what they are other than the Phylum, which is really poor resolution. But what we do know is that in the outer gulf, mid-gulf, and inner-gulf, so Firth of Thames, Tiritiri Matangi and out by Jellicoe Channel We have very different cohorts, and then by season, there are different cohorts. What we know in those warm years, it's too warm for a lot of those plankton, and they move out even further. And why do I know that? Because the whales move out, because the whales eat zooplankton. And so the whale watch people, who have been hugely supportive of our research over the years, they've now got 19 years of data, and we've recently analysed all of that data with temperature anomalies, which account for climate change so variations around what we would normally expect. And the Bryde's whales and common dolphins are moving further out of the gulf in those warm years already. Most of you don't know that, and you don't see that, because you're not out there, but those of you who pay attention, even to your coastal life, know that it's too warm. The mussels are too warm this summer and we talked about backing mussels. And those stressors are huge. So whilst we... Our seabirds are protected on the islands, they have to, on warm years, they have to fly further to their food. And there's a recent study, which has been really great, a colleague of mine, Brandon Dumph, is leading and looking at little blue penguins. Little blue penguins live on the edge of life anyway, they are visual hunters. We all know them and love them. When we have big sediment runoff which comes with big rains, which are coming more and more frequently with climate change, they can't see to hunt their prey. So they have to go further. If they have to go further, they're stressed and they can't find enough food. If they can't find enough food,

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they either can't make it back home, or if they make it back home, they're not in condition either to lay an egg or to feed their chick. They die, or their chick dies. And this is happening right now, right here. So, not only do our islands protect their seabirds but if the food has moved too far for them to go, it doesn't matter how nice their home is, there's no quay or the quay is too far for them. So that's happening right here, right now, and we need to kind of get our heads around that. Yeah, we really do.

- [Clarke] Riley, as the youngest panellist here, I mean, this is grim listening, to hear some of this. I mean, what's the feedback that you get when you go into classrooms and you talk to young kids? Are they taking this sort of thing on board?

- [Riley] Yeah, that is horrible to hear. Oh my gosh. Yeah, it's quite tricky. It's quite a tricky space to hold when you're going into primary schools, because there's obviously stuff like that going on but for kids, we're bombarded with messages of the world ending and the world changing like that all these creatures, yeah. It's a lot to take in and I think, at times, it's too much, and so going into classrooms, I'm very careful with what I'm telling kids and most of my stories are hope stories, and I love that because I think we need that especially as young people. We need good stories and things that make you want to go in the water and things that make you want to go protecting, fall in love with these beautiful creatures and beautiful places. But yeah, I do touch on things like that. Like, one time, I showed in my talk, I showed this picture of all this plastic that was found in the stomach of a turtle. And before I tell them what it is, I ask them, "What do you think it is?" and a lot of times they're like, "Oh, seaweed." "Yes, seaweed" and so I'm like, "Yeah, it looks like seaweed but it's not" and they find out that it's plastic and after one talk I had a five year old come up to me and she just gave me a hug and then she just started crying. She was like, "I don't want the animals to die." And I was like, "Me neither" like I want to cry now too. It was horrible. So it's really hard because you can't tell them everything because they are just going to get so overwhelmed, they don't want to do anything. And I've definitely felt like that too. And so, yeah, the response is kids nowadays, they care. They know what's going on, and they want to make a difference. Yeah, the response we get back is insane so I got to be careful with everything I say.

- [Clarke] Yes, they'll find balance. We'll retain a little bit of hope in them.

- [Moana] If I may, Clarke, so you know, kids are really resilient and I've had the absolute pleasure to meet the young people at Long Bay Primary School and they put a submission forward in June last year called Tangoura and Tanifa. And so, they're open to receiving this information and they are the best conduits. You want anything done? Get a bunch of kids to do it because they're so passionate. They really don't care what other people are going to come back and say to them because they're going to go gung-ho anyway and they've got their own little TV channel. And they are really committed to making a difference in their little communities. They're pushing for an extension of the Okura Marine Reserve. And these are really young people that are out there doing a whole bunch of really great stuff, so they are resilient.

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- [Clarke] Yes, I mean, as we know, kids are the ones that helped parents flip over to recycling and to stop smoking and if you can permeate and do what you're doing early and help that come through households, then that is fantastic work. Look, I am conscious of time so we are going to start opening the floor up to questions. If you have a question, please raise your hand and we will bring a microphone to you. Also, Slido is up and in action and people are sending questions through slido.com. What was the hashtag? H-G-N-P, there it is, up on the board. And as soon as I get the pin number in here, it says incorrect pin. How can that be? I'm too excited, I put too many zeroes. Right, and so, actually, we'll stay with you. I don't know if anyone wants to jump in and answer this question. This is from Mark Bellingham, has the customary knowledge of the Tangata Whenua been cast aside for short-term science? Should Matara in Maori lead the recovery of the Gulf?

- [Moana] I'm sure you'll get varying responses to that. And there are some, I think, Tenggara Whenua that are working better with other agencies than other Tenggara Whenua but really is about progressing that and taking the good stories and learning from those as we go forward with others .

- [Clarke] Yeah and I think the example of popping a Rahuyan up in Coromandel is a great collaborative example of things working well together. I'll run through another question here. This one is from Kate Davies. There's been a lot of talk about how the Gulf is degraded. How do we get action for restoration of the Hauraki Gulf? It's a pretty big broad question. Just do it, I think it was--

- [Audience Member] It's marine protection.

- [Clarke] Marine protection, yeah. It's a big broad question, I think we covered it off before. Susanne writes, "What would it take to have more marine reserves like the one at Leigh and Hauraki Gulf Marine Park?"

- [Rochelle] I think one of the real challenges we have in New Zealand is that marine protected areas are the most strict definition of it. And that is the greatest strengthener. You go overseas and say marine protected area and you tell them what we have in New Zealand like, "Oh my" you know, because there are very few places that have this, and we need those. So the recent challenges have been put out for 30% by 2030. As Minister Sage said, we have note 0.3% of the waters of the Hauraki Gulf protected and that is shameful. It is shameful. And so, I think the thing is that, not all protection needs to be fully no-tight marine protected areas. Those are needed. They are actually critical and there's lots of discussion and science and work around that, that's shown the benefit of those. But we also need other types, you know, rahui, mataitai, taiapure, these are all models that exist within our system that are incredibly valuable and flexible and they also fit in with it. The approach that Tangata Whenua have around governance protection management or variations. And so I think we need to have more broad conversations about it instead of it just being fully no taking PI's.

- [Clarke] Yes.

- [Rochelle] That's the only way we can start to move forward.

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- [Clarke] And I guess marine protected areas are an easy thing to think of, "Oh great, we protected this area" but the problem is, that fish and the life within do not understand the boundaries and by simply putting in a marine protected area, you don't change the fishing pressure at all, you just move it out. The crayfish and the marine reserve are a perfect example of that. It's been marine reserved for close to 40 years now and the crayfish numbers have all plummeted because crayfish don't keep still. They like to wander. In fact, they like to go out and hunt shellfish at night and so they end up getting caught. And so we can't allow ourselves into a false sense of security with what we think of as a marine... "Oh great, we put this marine reserve." But until we find a way to reduce the fishing pressure, to link things bounce back as a whole, then that's how I believe that we can see a real difference.

- [Moana] I'd really love to see a shift around waste. I think we put all these rules in place but we waste so much food and I think there needs to be some more control around how much catch there is, and then how much wastage there is.

- [Clarke] I have a question here that might be directed at you Pippa. "Accessing the Hauraki Gulf beyond mainland beaches is expensive" writes Von. How do we provide easier access to places like Turi, Rangitoto, etc. for people who don't have the finances?

- [Pippa] That's a brilliant part. I don't know if I have an easy question to that one, but answer to that one but... It would be awesome if we could be able to subsidise more ferries, where it's kind of now cost it more as a tourist destination, then they're not commuter roads. So it's very hard for Auckland council to come up with subsidies but there must be ways that we can partner with agencies that want to get more people out into the Hauraki Gulf. So, that one I would love to hear ideas about what we could do as a council to be able to make the Hauraki Gulf more accessible. I know, just in little ways, there's things like, when I was in the local board, we were just being asked to put in more accessible ramps into the Gulf so it was easier to get smaller boats into the water and that was just something that could be done and funded locally as well.

- [Clarke] Yeah, there's plenty of bodies who would argue that there's still not enough ramps during the rounds. Yeah, you're right, and also I guess, through connecting people to the ocean, that's when I really start to care about what it is under the water so it makes everyone's life a little bit easier.

- [Pippa] And I should just acknowledge that there are lots of groups that are already taking students out into the gulf and getting people out there who are doing a little of that work and getting volunteers out there. So, I think it is probably a partnership approach that we can work on.

- [Clarke] Do we have any questions from the floor? Just, I've been staring at the screen. We do, and we have a microphone there or do we have a... There we go, here comes one.

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- [Ian] Hello, is this a tester now? Kia ora, I'm Ian Burrows, Chair of the Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust. Waiheke was omitted from sea change initially, it was left to the community to come up with a plan. Apparently, Waiheke was a bit too feisty to get incorporated. This is now happening through the Waiheke, collective in partnership with Tangata Whenua, under the Waiheke Marine Project. We're running a future search event on the first weekend in May and then report to the MAC. We want Waiheke and Auckland fisherfolk to put up their hands to participate, and have a voice. How best do we do this because they seem incredibly reluctant to come forward and have their say? Maybe that's for you, Clarke.

- [Clarke] I don't know if it is mine. to be completely honest. I mean, Pippa or Moana, can you talk more to the process of that?

- [Moana] What was your actual question?

- [Ian] The question is how do we get fisherfolk to come and join in the discussion about protecting the waters around Waiheke because they need to have a say?

- [Moana] Invitation first. But I've been speaking to some of the people involved in that project. They seem very enthused and excited about the number of people that they have already engaged, and I'm sure that they will leave the doors open to anybody else that's willing to participate. The outdoor voting card have been really amazing at being available and engaging in conversations out there on the Hauraki Gulf. I think it's really about just making sure that the doors stay open and the communication channels are always open for everybody to be involved. Does that answer your question?

- [Clarke] Right, it would be more interesting to know more about, I guess the proposals in place as to what you want to do and the goals you are hoping to achieve out there. Fantastic, thank you. We have another question just down here.

- [Audience Member] I read that the sea wall in the harbour was being lifted a whole metre in order to cope with sea level rise and this utterly inadequate. If you... I'm a scientist, I read reports and everything is starting to accelerate. Every time I read reports, this is happening so much faster than we had expected. So we're going to see big sea level rises, we need to do things like, how we're going to protect water mark against sea level rise. I love the electric trains. They are absolutely fantastic. Are we going to develop Whenuapai as an alternative airport as Auckland International Airport disappears under the waves because it's runway is only a metre above the current high tide. So really, there's a climate change emergency, and there are big questions needed to be asked.

- [Clarke] Pippi, you're happy to leave that as a comment and a valid comment that it is. I particularly enjoy reading some of the historical records of how far inshore the coastal waters used to be down at the bottom of Franklin Road, where the history used to be, and they had issues of typhoid when the black market sacks of oysters were hidden in basements that used to flood through Queen Street, before that reclamation took place. And so, if it was taken that way, you're right. It could easily come back the other way. Is there

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anyone else that would like to add anything for the comment, or anything we've spoken about so far? I'm padding time here because my fat fingers are struggling with the screen that keeps locking. And we've got more questions from the audience. There's a question just here. And thank you for all the work that's been put into this. I love the video. I guess for me, as a member of the public, I'm thinking, we recycle our plastic bags, we pick up rubbish as fast as we can do anything. Auckland Council is approving a consent for marina on Waiheke. Ports of Auckland are trying to get through addressing consent. What we can we do... What can Auckland Council do to actually support the things that we as people want for the Gulf? And how can we affect that change through the Hauraki Gulf Forum and your work as councillors on the environment committee?

- [Pippa] Thank you Sharon for that question. As the new co-chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, we've had a very historic moment on the forum in that we're moving ahead with co-chairs. And so we we're brand new forum coming together. I like to acknowledge the former members and the new forum representatives. So we are only just coming together now and moving ahead. But one thing I did just want to mention is that we had an induction and we were introduced to the act, the hierarchy golf park act by Graham Campbell, who's here tonight who wrote it. And he said to us that we must think of a forum as a verb and not as a noun because we should be doing a forum. We should be doing the work, doing the engagement, doing the advocacy and getting things done. And I think that we all came together with a very common focus that that is the way we need to go forward. So I did just want to thank Ryan for sort of sowing that seed and he also said that we actually have a lot more powers in the act that we're not using and that his big bit of advice was that we should know our act and know our powers. So I know that's not directly answering your question, but I did just want to use that question just to be able to give a bit of a signal about where I think the forum is going to be going and that we're very committed. I think as we come together we're going to have an announcement soon about who will be both of the coaches going forward and what we are going to be focused on. But I know it's going to be about actually... It's going to be about the forum as a verb and being very proactive. So watch this space.

- [Clarke] Is that your way of saying the teeth will go into the mouth of the shark? Yes.

- [Pippa] Yes.

- [Clarke] Excellent. We've probably got time for maybe just a couple more questions and then we will wrap things up. There's a question here. I'll just sort of summarise and maybe we could just run down the panel and talk to it. So many people are working in the Gulf with it being so big, things get missed. What single problem should we fix that isn't being done already? What do you think is the most pressing issue? Something that sort of raises a flag, I guess in your mind more and you're looking away, Rochelle, you're looking confident. I'll start with you if you like.

- [Rochelle] I was trying to decide which one to pick.

- [Rochelle] I pick fishing. Anyone who extracts anything. It says it's not commercial versus recreational. It's not fin fish, business, shellfish. It's fishing where you all need to just and just take up at least think about what you're doing. Think about where you're taking. That is I think one of the single biggest threats.

- [Clarke] Moana. That's right there. You can push play on this. What's the thing?

- [Moana] I think really it is around education and encouraging people to have a relationship with the ocean and with the environment so that they can feel connected from the heart and from the heat and so that they've got something at stake. We often say look, if we think of the ocean As Minister Sage spoke, he is the child of And if we were to look after our own children, or we want people to look after our children as we will take care of we have to have a relationship so that there is something at stake.

- [Clarke] Fantastic, thank you. Riley, if you can do anything tomorrow, what would you do?

- [Riley] I was going to say, just getting the word out there. It's kind of similar, but getting the word out there. Like it's the 20th anniversary. It's been 20 years and a vast majority of Oaklanders don't even know exactly where the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is. And we want to change that. But also it's just... I don't know, especially for kids, educating kids so that they can take these stories home to their parents and create change through that way. Because as my dad likes to say, you'll always listen to your kids even if you change to stop them from nagging. You're just targeting kids like that. And I don't know, educating anyone in that way, but I think what we're doing with kids is going to change a lot as well. Just getting the word out there and making people aware and a connection.

- [Clarke] And to say thank you. Andrew.

- [Andrew] I'm with Rochelle on the fisheries front. I think one of the points that the report highlights is that rock lobsters are functionally extinct in Hauraki Gulf. We talk about the quota management system being a world-leading system. I Just... The two things don't match up to me at all. So there's something fundamentally wrong and we need to sort that out and put it right and the Hauraki Gulf is a good place to do it. There's a lot of Goodwill there and yes, there's some interest groups there, but that has been hurt by having a population crash. People have lost their livelihoods, their families are hurting because of the lost income. Recreational fishers aren't enjoying the experience. But worst of all, we're seeing Kelp forest being devastated by population explosion and that's creating a whole new legacy. And I just don't want to see my kids trying to work out how to put Kelp forest back in the same way that I'm trying to work out how to put the muscle bids back.

- [Clarke] Pippa.

- [Pippa] I attended this afternoon the media standup with the minister and two of the authors of the report. And it was, I mean, it really is very dire what is in here in a lot of ways. And one thing that Shane said was, that really hit home to me is that he said that a lot of the negative changes that have happened in the gulf are irreversible. That is just really tragic. But

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he did say, I'm not a politician so can't do a quick one word answer on this one, but he did say that, "We can decide the future and we've got to act quickly" and that's just absolutely what it's all about. That we absolutely have to act. And what the report, one of the key messages in the report is that we've put in on the ledger of development versus the environment. We have been putting too much weight on development and extraction and pollution. Now is the time to focus on the environment and on the Hauraki Gulf and its health.

- [Clarke] Thank you Pippa. With that comment, I think that you're going to be a wonderful coach here at the Hauraki Forum. I look forward to the years ahead. A wonderful baseline that has been established Moana through those six reports to help us sort of ascertain a bit of picture of what's going on. Rochelle, thank you so much for speaking so passionately and with detail, which is what I like and respect. As the things that are going on cause you are the one out there with the sleeves rolled up that actually gets down and cancel the curly squiggly things that as of yet have no name. Fascinating. And of course if you haven't seen Riley and what she's done with young explorers, it's just such a wonderful resource and they've put out a great book and the work that they do going into schools is so important into the future. It's nice to have you back in New Zealand and doing that. Thank you Andrew for enlightening us as to... and just framing so well. It's that ripple effect. It's that totality. If you knock something out, what is the downstream effect of what happens in our ocean? Taking out the crayfish, having that kind of baron explode losing our Kelp forest what hides in the Kelp forest, what eats them. The whole ecology of things can collapse and tip over so easily. And thank you Pippa, for being here for representing Auckland council and having sort of sense of optimism and teeth in the bite of the shark to try and attempt to do the difficult task of tackling some of these jobs. And as we sort of look forward and say, let's see you back here in 20 years and see how we've got on and see what we can reverse. And hopefully it's more than just the plights, the wonderful plight of the Bryde's whales, which are residents here in the gulf. In general I'd like to invite you to thank our panellists here this evening. A big thanks to our sponsors. Thanks of course to the staff and this wonderful facility. This is the perfect, beautiful location here at the Royal New Zealand yacht squadron. I've got two little things to mention before I end. This is the start of a celebration of 20 years of the Hauraki Gulf being a marine park obviously. And there are lots of events to look forward to. Events like Dave's wonderful poster that is now available to take home, but two events that are coming up. This looks amazing. The Auckland Philharmonia have commissioned an orchestral piece on the Hauraki Gulf and they have really immersed themselves in this. In fact, the composer went and spent several nights on to really get under the skin of the place and to come up with this piece. Now they will be doing a series of three free concerts as part of the Auckland Philharmonia's education and outreach team and the details of which you are all invited to. The theme of the concert is water and features music inspired by water from around the planet. The APO was also delighted to present the world premier of the orchestral piece that I have just mentioned written by composer Ryan Ewens performed it at these concerts. The first of these is on the 9th of May at the Auckland town hall. You're encouraged to come along and bring your The second thing I'd like to mention is a sustainable business Nick Works' gift to the gulf of hint as part of the anniversary celebrations. It will take place in the Takutai Square and pretty much during lunchtime on Thursday to 26th of March. A heap of activities for local business people and passers by to enjoy and their lunch break and at the

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same time discover some of the ways they can help restore our wonderful but vulnerable Hauraki Gulf Tikapa Moana. That is all free as well. Alright. There's just a couple of lists here and we've sort of talked in bigger theory or ideas about the wants and the need to do better by our gulf. But there are some simple ways and things to think about as we leave here this evening. Use reusable coffee cups, things as simple as that. Those annoying little plastic lids and all sorts of rubbish. Tell you this, when they go through and work out what's been going out and to see obviously reusable drink bottles. It's those annoying little cups that end up going down into the gutter and getting washed out and they end up inside out birds and marine life out in the gulf causing them all sorts of problems. And once you care on the grass, stop all the pollutants and contaminants that are built up on your vehicles from going down into the drains and then count the processes that go through, the filtration system and then ultimately pass back out into the water. Put them on the grass. If you're going for a walk on the beach, take a bag, pick up some rubbish. It's really as easy as that. If you're an active fisher and you enjoy the gulf, come home with more rubbish than you take. It's so simple. You see something floating on the surface, slow down, pick it up and bring it home. Be positive in that action when you're out there enjoying the water. It gives me great pleasure. Now to wrap things up to say thank you, to say that this will be available online on the Auckland conversations website where you can catch up with this and find links to other information that's been mentioned here. So ladies and gentleman, thank you for coming along this evening and good night.

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